



October 4, 2007

Mr. Peter Benjamin, Board Member  
Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority  
600 Fifth Street, NW  
Washington, DC 20001

Dear Mr. Benjamin,

I am writing to request that the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority (WMATA) Board of Directors postpone consideration of the staff report on the EYA Project at the Takoma Metro Station. I understand that this item is scheduled for consideration on October 11, 2007.

I am requesting this postponement because the Takoma Park City Council passed a resolution identifying several areas of concern associated with the EYA Project. Chief among these concerns are pedestrian safety, bus bay configuration, compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), and the destruction of green space. In addition, I want to ensure that the station and the surrounding development is truly a smart growth project designed to serve the current and future transportation needs of residents in Maryland and the District of Columbia. Residents have identified several specific issues with the project including: the adequacy and configuration of the bus bays; public safety concerns associated with bifurcating the bus waiting area for idling buses by a row of five fenced bus bays; a lack of adequate Kiss and Ride facilities; the failure to provide ADA access from the western side of the station; and the placement of the proposed disability access area.

I have met several times with Takoma Park residents about this issue. In addition, at my request, District of Columbia Councilmember Muriel Bowser graciously hosted a meeting with Takoma Park residents about their concerns with the EYA Project. As a result of these meetings, I believe that we are all committed to having a genuine smart growth project developed on the Takoma Metro site; however, I am not satisfied that the current EYA Project meets the needs of the community.

I would like the opportunity to meet with you and the Mayor of Takoma Park on this issue prior to the WMATA vote. The Takoma Metro Project will serve this community well into the future, and I want to ensure that the concerns raised by the community are addressed before the WMATA vote. Thank you in advance for considering this request.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Valerie Ervin", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Valerie Ervin  
Councilmember

VE:SH: F:Ervin\Mail\2007\Takoma Metro. Doc

c: County Executive Isiah Leggett  
Council President Marilyn Praisner  
Councilmember Muriel Bowser, District of Columbia  
Mayor Kathy Porter, Takoma Park  
City Councilmember Joy Austin-Lane  
Board Member Gordon Linton, WMATA

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